

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

11-2014

## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO:

Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission

FROM:

Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager

DATE:

January 7, 2014

SUBJECT: Convention Center Advisory Board Motion

The purpose of this Letter to Commission is to provide you with the attached motion from the Convention Center Advisory Board regarding renaming the Executive Board Room in the Convention Center, The Leon A. Manne Executive Board Room. Attached are also several letters of support.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

JLM/KGB/MAS

Kathie G. Brooks Assistant City Manager C: Max Sklar, Tourism and Cultural Development Director

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We the members of the Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board ask that the City of Miami Beach Mayor and Commission, at its first official Commission meeting in January 2014, rename the Executive Board room in the Convention Center, "THE LEON A. MANNE EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM, honoring his contribution to both the Center and the community.

In addition, we ask that this action take place on the meeting date requested above, waiving any committee process so that it can be announced at a memorial service for Leon that will take place on Saturday, February 8, 2014, which is the day Leon would have turned 96 years of age.

This service will be for family and friends and would be most appropriate if the naming could be announced at that time.

In addition to this motion, you will find letters of support from not only friends, but users of the Center who worked with Leon for over 50 years.

This motion passed unanimously at the CCAB meeting held on January

7, 2014.

**Stuart Blumberg** 

Chairman



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ST. LOUIS 701 Convention Ptz Saint Louis, MO 63101-1275 (314) 342-5324 Fax (314) 342-5384 E-Mail: stlouis@edlen.com Mr. Stuart Blumberg - President Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board 1901 Convention Center Drive 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Offices Miami Beach Florida 33139

Re: Leon A. Manne

Dear Stuart:

Please share my personal feelings with the Advisory Board regarding Leon Manne and the memory that should be established in his honor after all he did for Miami Beach, the Convention Center and the Tradeshow industry. I had the privilege of working with Leon since 1960 and Leon was not only an honorable business associate but also a trusted friend and pioneer in the infant days of the Tradeshow industry. The City of Miami Beach, the Convention Center nor the Tradeshow industry would be the same today without Leon's 70+ years of dedication and deep love for Miami Beach.

Leon loved Miami Beach and he dedicated his life to the development of business in Miami Beach particularly with reference to the building and expansion of the Miami Beach Convention Center. I can think of no one who more greatly deserves to be recognized at the Miami Beach Convention Center than the man who made it his life's work to support and develop it, Leon Manne.

I whole heartedly support your endeavor to name the Miami Beach Convention Center 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room the "Leon Manne Executive Board Room" as a token gesture by the City to acknowledge the lifelong work donated by Leon Manne to better the City and Convention Center he so loved and fought for.

Thank you for honoring and remembering my good friend, Leon Manne.

Leonard Swimmer CEO Emeritus

long Sums

Edlen Electrical Exhibition Services

Mr. Stuart Blumberg Chairman Miami Beach Convention Center 1901 Convention Center Drive 4th floor Executive Office Miami Beach, FI 33139

Re: Leon A. Manne

Dear Stuart:

I am writing to ask that the Board Room in the Miami Beach Convention Center be renamed THE LEON MANNE EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM.

As a prior member of the Board for about 25 years there would be nothing more fitting than to honor Leon's memory in this way.

Leon was the preeminent sales person for Miami Beach and the Trade Show and convention industry. He attended almost all of the industry meetings and was seen by all of his peers as an individual who was always representing and selling Miami Beach.

Leon hired me in 1975 and I moved to Miami to be the General Manager of his company, Manncraft-Greyhound, which was a convention service contractor. My life was changed forever, and I saw him do the same for everybody with whom he came in contact. He was a mentor, friend, advisor and assistant to not only me, but the whole community. He served on many boards over the years giving tirelessly of himself always for the betterment of the individual and or the community, without regard for his time or personal benefit.

I saw him help revitalize the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce, spend hours doing things for Kiwanis, help with the committee that redid the Miami Beach Convention Center and on and on. He never said No to anyone, and always had his beloved Miami Beach in the forefront. He and Audrey traveled the world, but kept Miami Beach and the Convention industry as their main focus at all times.

I think that nothing would be more fitting than to have Leon's name grace the boardroom of the building where he devoted his life.

Stuart, please implore the Convention Center Advisory Board to do the only right thing, and recommend to the City Commission to have Leon's name permanently placed over the BoardRoom.

We all miss seeing his smiling face, his advise and his concern, but this will help to insure that all future generations know that once there was a great, kind man who's name was Leon A. Manne. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Very truly,

Robert Spiegelman





Mr. Stuart Blumberg - President
Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board
1901 Convention Center Drive 4th Floor Executive Offices
Miami Beach Florida 33139

Re: Leon Manne

## **Dear Stuart:**

Please share my personal and my business feelings with the Advisory Board regarding Leon Manne and the memory that should be established in his honor after all he did for Miami Beach and the Convention Center. I had the honor of knowing Leon as a friend long before I started producing Shows at the MBCC in 1979. He was a friend, a gentleman and Leon brought the tradeshow and convention business to Miami Beach when this building had clients like the Ringling Bros. Circus, Flea Markets, boxing, wrestling, etc.. Leon was the first Service Contractor that established service for tradeshows and conventions with his company Mannecraft long before any other firm would produce the services needed for the caliber of events that now fill this facility.

Leon loved Miami Beach and was always there to serve in any capacity that the City requested of him. If I listed all the organizations that Leon was involved in, whether governmental, professional or private it would take another full page alone to accommodate them. It should be the honor for the City of Miami Beach to remember his memory and all Leon did for the City of Miami Beach by bestowing some type of a memorial just to say "thank you" for all that Leon did for Miami Beach.

In years past the City of Miami Beach alone within this complex has named a theater for an entertainer, an exhibit hall for a boxer, at one point the entire building for a local businessman and even brass plaques in lobbies including my name and others just for being on the committee that built this building. In addition many streets for another entire list of people. Leon loved this building and was involved in it for about 50 years helping make it what it is today as a major driver of tourism and economic builder for The City of Miami Beach.

The Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board and building management must appeal to the City of Miami Beach's Mayor and Commissioners to encourage the City to say "Thank You" to Leon, in some way within the confines of the building that Leon literally built. It does not have to be grand or massive gesture because that was not Leon. All it needs to be is a token just to say "Thank You" to Leon because that is the way Leon lived, a man that loved what he did and a man that everyone that knew him loved him. A suggestion that I have heard made is the naming of the Conference Room that you are sitting in right now, just like Leon had done for hundreds of meetings. I feel this gesture would be a very satisfactory way to say "Thank You" Leon for all that you did for the City of Miami Beach and this building.

Each and every one of you I am sure where touched by Leon over the years. Please remember Leon, his smile and all he did for Miami Beach and please help make this gesture become a reality.

Respectfully submitted for your serious consideration and hopefully favorable response.

Michael G. Breslow

President MGB/mb

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January 6, 2014

Dear Stuart Blumberg,

We support your efforts in naming the boardroom after Leon Manne. We believe it is a fitting tribute to a man who has for several decades help shape the Miami Beach Convention Center and continued, up until his passing, to support the future renovation and expansion. His dedication to improve the building never wavered. It was a pleasure knowing him and he will be missed.

Sincerely,

Bob Balsam, General Manager

Rich Feeley, Director of Events

Angelo Grande, Director of Operations

Ileana Garcia, Director of Sales/Marketing

Cortney Hersom, Director of Finance George Aiello, Sales Manager

Jacqueline Gonzalez, Receptionist



Stuart L. Blumberg Chairman Miami Beach Convention Center Advisory Board 7532 Cutlass Avenue Miami Beach, FL 33141

January 6, 2014

Dear Stu,

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On behalf of our Chair Peggy Benua, our Immediate Past Chair Raj Singh, and our Board of Directors, we were deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend Leon Manne. As you know, Leon served on our Board of Directors for 20 years. We all appreciate the special friendship you had with Leon, and please know how sorry we are for your loss. Your work together and advocacy "for the business of the Miami Beach Convention Center" has remained our number one priority.

We would like to endorse that the Miami Beach Convention Center's Executive Board room be re-named The Leon Manne Executive Board room in honor of his dedication to the center and the future renovation as well. We hope that the normal process of referring it to a committee be waived out of respect to Leon and his wife Audrey.

As I mentioned to you, Leon attended his last GMBHA Board meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and although he wanted to resign due to health issues, we would not let him. We will miss him very much.

Warm wishes to you and your family this upcoming year,

Wendy Kallergis

Wenny E. Kallery's

President & CEO

**GMBHA**